Global recession and tourist arrival

223. SHRI M. V. MYSURA REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the number of foreign tourists to the country has not come down due to global recession last year, but the number has come down after the Mumbai attack; and

(b) if so, how Government is planning to address the issue and what measures have been taken or proposed to take to improve tourism in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) and (b) Though the growth rate in Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in 2008 over 2007 was lower (5.6%) as compared to that of 14.3% in 2007 over 2006, the total number of FTAs in 2008 was 5.37 million which is higher than the FT As of 5.08 million in 2007. The lower growth rate in 2008, particularly in November and December, may be due to various reasons including global financial meltdown and terrorist activities. To minimize the negative impact of recent terrorist attacks in the country, Ministry of Tourism has taken the following steps:-

- All States have been requested to beef up security measures in hotels and at tourist sites in their respective States;
- Indiatourism offices overseas are in regular contact with the international media and travel trade to keep them updated on the ground situation in the country.
- Familiarsation Tours for trade and media representatives to Mumbai and other regions of the country have been specially organized to project the ground realities relating to safety/ security conditions in the country. Trade/ Media representatives from USA, UK, Ireland, France, Germany, Austria, Netherlands, Argentina, Mexico, South Africa, Japan, Malaysia and Singapore have visited India during the months of December 2008 and January 2009 as a result of this initiative.

Development of tourism in Punjab

224. SHRI VARINDER SINGH BAJWA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the proposals submitted by State Government of Punjab and other agencies for the development of Tourism in the State, still pending with the Central Government for clearance;

(b) the details of each proposal and by when each of them is expected to be cleared; and

(c) the financial assistance or loans granted for Punjab for the development of tourism in the State during the last three years ending 31 December, 2008 with details of their utilization?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, extends Central Financial Assistance under its various Plan Schemes, to the proposals received from the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations, which are complete in all respects as per the scheme guidelines subject to availability of funds.

Four proposals from the Government of Punjab for broadbasing of hospitality education through Vocational Schools/Industrial Training Institutes/Government Colleges are under consideration and the final outcome would be communicated to the State Government shortly.

(c) The Central Financial Assistance sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India for the tourism projects for the development of tourism in the State during the last 3 years (*w.e.f.* 2006-07 to 2008-09 till 31.12.2008) is as follows:

2006-07 (Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Amount
1.	Integrated Development of Pilgrim Circuit	800.00
2.	Integrated Development of Freedom Trail Punjab Tourism Circuit	784.45
3.	Integrated Development of Kapurthala as a Tourist Destination	361.10
4.	Integrated Development of Roopnagar (Roper) as a tourist destination	333.21
5.	Assistance for Incredible India - Punjab Luxury Train under the Scheme of Assistance to Large Revenue Generating Projects of Ministry of Tourism	725.00
6.	Celebration of Punjab Mela at Ludhiana	10.00
7.	Celebration of Kinnow Festival, Chamkaur Sahib	5.00
8.	Celebration of Rural Sports Mela at Quila Raipur	5.00
9.	Rural Tourism at Village Jainti Majri, Mohali	50.00
10.	Rural Tourism at Village Chhat (Patiala)	46.00
11.	Development of Rural Tourism at Village Boothgarh (Hoshiarpur)	50.00
12.	Rural tourism at Village Chamkaur Sahib, Ropar	46.00

2007-08 (Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Amount
1.	Integrated Development of Hoshiarpur	397.89
2.	State Institute of Hotel Management, Bhatinda	1000.00

2008-09

(Rs. in lakhs)

Sl.No.	Name of the Project	Amount
1.	Integrated Development of Amritsar, Punjab as a Mega Tourist Destination	1585.53
2.	Development of Khurali, Hoshiarpur	159.57
3.	Rural Tourism at Village Rajasansi, Amritsar	42.59
4.	Food Craft Institute, Hoshiarpur	475.00

The funds sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism are utilized by the State Government for the implementation of the projects and monitored by the Ministry of Tourism from time to time through the Project Monitoring System/Site visits.

Potential of tourism in country

225. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that though India has a great potential for tourism, many tourist places in India still remain inaccessible;

(b) whether tourism department has made any survey of the tourism potential of India that tourism may attract million tourists and could create more employment; and

(c) whether Government has any prospective action plan to develop the infrastructure of tourism in important tourist places in different States including Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH): (a) to (c) Although the tourism sector in India has grown considerably in the recent years, it is felt that with India's vast bounties of nature, its great treasures of art, architecture and philosophical thought, its rich cultural heritage, its varied rural countryside and wildlife, and age-old practices of Yoga, Siddha, etc. spread across different States/UTs, there is immense tourism potential to tap, which can lead to further growth in tourism.

Development of tourism is primarily undertaken by the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations. However, to facilitate development of tourism in a systematic and holistic manner, the Ministry of Tourism had commissioned 20-Year Perspective Plans for States/ Union Territories, including Orissa, at the beginning of the Tenth Five Year Plan. These perspective plans, which give action plans for tourism development in the short term and long term, were sent to the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations to guide them in initiating action for development and promotion of tourism.

Water sharing

†226. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 34 per cent of the available water services in India, has its origin outside the country;

(b) if so, the names of the water sources and the names of the countries in which they are situated;

(c) whether Government has so far entered into any long term agreement for water sharing with the Governments of these countries; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The main course or the tributaries of rivers Ganga-Brahmaputra-